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PNR blackout

One of the most revealing sentences uttered during the 1961 session of the British Columbia Legislature was spoken Saturday by Randolph Harding, CCF member for the Kootenay riding of Kaslo-Slocan.

"Here we are, 52 people elected by the people of B.C., and we don't know what is going on," he said.

Mr. Harding is no rabid socialist. He is a brilliant public speaker who keeps himself well-informed, and who is listened to with respect by both political friends and foes.

His significant sentence was uttered Saturday when the House was debating the Social Credit bill which removed the Pacific Northern Railway from the control of the Public Utilities Commission, and placed it instead under the jurisdiction of the Railway Act.

This gives the minister of commercial transport, a Social Crediter, the sole right to tell the PNR promoters what they have to do.

Under the PUC, which is supposedly independent of government control, the company promoters would have had to first prove the utility is necessary, where the capital would come from and how much, and reveal whether the railway would be profitable or require public subsidies.

The government deliberately withheld this jurisdiction bill until the dying moments of the session to avoid the close opposition questioning that would have been forthcoming had the opposition had sufficient time to study the implications.

As it was, the opposition's unhappy remarks paint the picture in bold relief.

"These people are not going to spend millions of dollars without being promised something," said North Vancouver Liberal Gordon Gibson. "To me there is something being held back."

"For one full year," said Mr. Harding, "the people of B.C. have been kept in the dark, despite repeated assurances of cabinet ministers.

"Now, decisions will be made by stockholders behind closed doors," he said.—The Prince George Citizen.

For lovers of tests

When seeking workers, some managements resort to expensive and often dubiously employed psychological tests.

There a story now going the rounds that has a moral for test-happy executives.

A firm wanted a research engineer. Applicants were a scientist, an engineer and an economist. Who to choose?

The employer tried a simple experiment. Each applicant was given a stone, a piece of string and a stop watch. Then he was told to measure the height of a certain building.

The scientist entered the building, climbed to the roof and carried out an experiment in physics. Tying the stone to the string he lowered it until it brushed the ground. Then he swung it, timing each swing with the stop watch. From his crude pendulum he was able to report the height of the building at 200 ft. — give or take 12 inches.

The engineer threw away the string, dropped the stone from the building's roof and timed its fall with the stop watch. According to laws of gravity, he said, the building was precisely 200 ft.

The economist, leaving string and stone behind, entered the building and returned a few minutes later to report that the height was precisely 200 ft.

How did he know? He gave the stop watch to the janitor in exchange for the building's plans.

He got the job.

— The Financial Post

The great challenge

In our security-conscious, steam-heated society, boredom and a loss of real zest for life are rather common. People complain that there is no challenge in daily living, that everything moves along in a prearranged, or at least readily predictable fashion.

It is true that a man can no longer get together a few household goods in a wagon and head west toward a frontier. It is not at all true that there are no longer any challenges that will test the mettle of a courageous man or woman.

We have in mind one challenge in particular. It can be simply stated: Try applying the precepts of your religion, without reservation or sail-trimming, to daily life. Although this may sound rather simple, a challenge not to be compared with the hardships and hostile savages that tested the pioneers, it is actually the most demanding challenge of all.

Suppose that concept of the brotherhood of all men — not merely those whose skin is the same color as ours, whose political and moral ideas are the same as ours, but literally all men — were to be applied unstintingly to our dealings with others? Suppose the admonition to sell all we have and give to the poor were to be followed to the letter? Suppose everyone accepted as a solemn obligation the demand to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, comfort the oppressed — without, be it noted, first taking precautions to assure personal comfort?

Those are only hints of the immeasurably great challenge that confronts us all. There is still plenty of pioneering to be done.

— Greenwood (Miss.) Commonwealth

BEYOND REASONABLE ALERTNESS

How ridiculous can they get?

This newspaper has always taken the position that our people need to be as alert to the danger of Communist subversion at home as to the danger of Communist expansion abroad.

We have also pointed out, however, that there is an important distinction between alertness to real danger and an obsessive determination to conjure up dangers where no dangers exist.

Those who see Communist dangers all about them — in our churches, in our schools, in our textbooks and in old and reputable organizations serving constructive public purposes — have gone beyond the state of reasonable alertness.

While they are entitled to their own private hallucinations, they do serious public harm when they bring wild and irresponsible charges of communism against institutions and organizations that are working to promote the public good.

Though these charges cannot be proved, they sometimes undermine public confidence where public confidence is deserved.

They blur the distinction — which ought to be kept clear and unmistakable — between real Communist subversion and active American citizenship.

All this is said by way of deploring the attacks that have recently been made both in Boulder and in Denver against the Foreign Policy Association — World Affairs Centre, which is sponsoring the Great Decisions program.

The Foreign Policy Association has been in operation 42 years, working to stimulate public interest in world affairs and to promote broad public participation in world affairs discussions.

Its board of directors is dominated by investment bankers, corporation executives, distinguished educators and men and women of high public standing and irreproachable reputation.

It has been commended by Dwight D. Eisenhower, Richard M. Nixon, Lyndon B. Johnson, John F. Kennedy and scores of senators and public figures in both political parties.

More than 350 American corporations contribute funds to the Foreign Policy Association. Hundreds of church and community organizations and 40 major newspapers, including this one, have co-operated in its Great Decisions program in 1,000 U.S. communities.

Thousands of Denverites have taken part in Great Decisions groups and know at first hand whether their discussions were serving the ends of a Communist conspiracy.

The attacks on the Foreign Policy Association are compounded of distortions and misrepresentations.

They spring from the disturbed minds of people who see Communists all about them in the same way that chronic alcoholics see pink elephants.

The best remedy for anyone who feels inclined to take these attacks seriously would be to join a Great Decisions group and find out for himself whether they serve the Kremlin or the cause of responsible citizenship in a free society.

— Denver Post

New concept

"The writing is on the wall. The day of that old-fashioned, deterioration-breeding, medical concentration camp called an asylum is just about over.

"The day of short-term treatment in small units with restitution to the community is here.

"Many of us have physical illnesses, diabetes, heart disease, peptic ulcers, and carry on in the community. The same can be said of many of our mental illnesses.

"The new concept, the revolutionary concept, is that these people are not evil, they are not dangerous, they are not possessed of devils, they are decent citizens like you and me and can be treated in the community with safety and dignity."

— F. E. Coburn in Canada's Mental Health

A Bible Thought for Today

Fight the good fight of faith. I Tim. 6:12.

No battle was ever won by men who lacked faith. You can do what you think you can do.

FEEDING FRIENDS — Daily visits to Stanley Park in Vancouver has made Ed Greissenger of Calgary fast friends of the swans. Mr. Greissenger spends each winter in Vancouver. (CP Photo)

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

One of these days a speedboat driver is going to get a nasty shock. He is going to glance behind and see a water-policeman dogging him in a police boat with a siren and a red light on top.

The policeman will pull the boat-driver over and write him out a ticket.

In this way, the age of the water-cowboy will come to an end.

There will be no more tearing along the shore of a small lake at 45 knots, chopping waterfowl to pieces, half-drowning child swimmers, swamping people's wharves, breaking fishermen's lines and deafening people with the noise.

Enjoy them now

Sad to say, all these picturesque folk-ways are going to fall into disuse, quite soon. So you had better enjoy them, water-cowboys, while you still have a chance.

Of course, the federal government will need a little more prodding, before it begins a program of strict control, or gives provincial governments authority to do the job.

Only a few more people need to be run down—just a handful of swimmers decapitated by feeble-minded youths at the wheel of 100-horsepower boats. This must be done, to dramatize the situation.

The speedboat drivers will soon attend to this chore and provide the necessary bloodshed. Since power boats are increasing by thousands each year and anyone can drive them, with not even a primitive test of physical or mental fitness, it will be easily accomplished.

Without warning

After the government has been shocked into action we may get licensing of drivers, proper licensing of boats with large numbers that you can see from a distance, and a force of water police with boats that can be transported quickly and without warning from lake to lake.

Power boats will be ruled off small lakes completely, kept to a moderate speed in middle-sized lakes, and required to stay 100 to 200 yards from the shore of large lakes.

Impossible to regulate boat traffic? Too many boats? That's exactly what people said about cars, 50 years ago. Now they are regulating cars efficiently enough—too efficiently, some people think.

They'll be regulating boats, too.

Twelve-month schools

From the Merced (California) Sun-Star.

The possibility of a 12-month school year has been kicked around for several years now.

The recent California Citizens Commission on Education recommended that the Legislature study the possibilities of a year-round year.

Educators have debated the effect of a three-month vacation for teenagers. It has been pointed out that this country no longer has a rural economy —child labor has been replaced by machines. Yet we still retain the short school year with a long summer vacation.

S. Bryan Jennings of Middleburg, Fla., a member of that state's chamber of commerce committee on education, has been an outspoken advocate of year around school use.

Jennings advocates "the efficient use of educational facilities and teaching personnel by abolishing, as rapidly as possible, the outmoded system of operating schools for nine months in the year and allowing our buildings—which represent the investment of billions of dollars—to stand idle for the remaining three months of each year."

Jennings estimates that if all of the schools in the nation would operate 48 weeks in the year with staggered enrollments, the equivalent of 444,000 additional classrooms would be created—equal to a construction cost of $14 billions.

APPOINTED ARCHBISHOP — Very Rev. George Bernard Flahiff, 55, of Toronto, has been appointed Roman Catholic archbishop of Winnipeg. Archbishop Flahiff, a native of Paris, Ont., succeeds Most Rev. Philip F. Pocock, named coadjutor archbishop of Toronto. Archbishop Flahiff has been superior-general of the Basilian Fathers since 1954. — CP Photo

EDITOR'S NOTE—Signed articles and editorials credited to other newspapers do not necessarily reflect the views of The Daily News.

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

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Now that spring is coming, an old retired insurance man of my acquaintance who spends his time gardening and keeping his lawns and premises as pretty and crisp as a new policy, is free once more to sit in his rocking chair on his screened verandah and shoot peas at dogs. He has an old-fashioned pea shooter and he keeps a pocket full of dried peas. Let a dog so much as set foot on his lawn, and "pfft," the dog is on his way. The peas don't hurt the dog. They just astonish it.

"Inside of 15 years," says my old friend, "what with all the changes brought about by books like "Lady Chatterley's Lover" and these frank paperbacks, the wording of our bylaws about dogs is going to be more plainly phrased. We say now that dogs are not allowed 'to run at large.' We don't mean that. What we mean is we don't want strange dogs soiling and polluting our property. Along this street here every day there are four different ladies who come along with their dogs on leash for no purpose whatever but to have the dogs defile somebody else's property than their own. Of all the barefaced swindles!"

He says that in 15 years, nobody will be allowed a dog licence who hasn't adequate property on which the dog can be exercised and confined. And anybody who allows a dog to soil anybody else's property will be made to come and clean it up!

Friends are beautiful

Specially you I know by mail,
you are most beautiful of all.
You are the star caught in my
pail.
I am the chaffinch on your
wall.
You are your charming curious hand,
I, sheets of typing, semi-skilled.
I know the tortoise on your
land,
you know the gopher in my
field.

Then this is why we went to
school
and learned a common
alphabet,
to know each other beautiful
because our thoughts took
wing and met.
Implore me not to venture
towards
a face-to-face discovery:
you took me for my paper
words,
now take my paper words for
me. —Betty Bridgman.

The lighter side

"Congratulations, my boy. You will look upon this as the happiest day of your life."

"But I'm not getting married until tomorrow."

"Yes, I know."

FOR THE ROAST OF YOUR LIFE..

Dine with us at the Georgia in the heart of downtown Vancouver. In the celebrated Cavalier Grill (where all meals are majestic) the baron of beef reigns supreme. Any way you order your beef, the service is well done — the atmosphere rare. Charming Elizabethan decor . . . unobtrusive lighting . . . warm-hearted hospitality . . . all in all, it's a superlative dining experience. Contact the Georgia or your travel agent. He knows!

HOTEL GEORGIA 61-13
Home of the Cavalier Grill
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Traffic Victims Indemnity Fund

How much protection?

The Traffic Victims Indemnity Fund is being established to protect residents of British Columbia who are innocent victims in traffic accidents caused by hit-and-run drivers, drivers of stolen cars, drivers who are not licensed and drivers who cannot pay damages.

When it becomes fully operational, it will combine with new limits for Pink Slip insurance to give British Columbians *the most complete protection for traffic victims in North America.*

Starting January 1, 1962, the Fund will protect you financially up to $25,000 for injury and property damage in cases when you cannot collect from the motorist responsible. The protection if you are the victim of an insured motorist will also be at least $25,000.

In the meantime—from June 1 to January 1.—T.V.I.F. will protect you up to $10,000 if you alone are injured; and, subject to that limit for any one person, up to $20,000 if others are injured with you in the same accident; up to $2,000, subject to a $200 deductible, if you suffer property damage (except when property damage is caused by a hit-and-run driver.)

TOMORROW—HOW T.V.I.F. WILL OPERATE

ALL CANADA INSURANCE FEDERATION
on behalf of most automobile insurance companies in British Columbia